

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 11, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

img B1  
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Reference is now directed to FIG. 5, which presents a schematic diagram illustrating an exemplary network configuration that may be used to distribute and execute the firmware patch 500 of FIG. 4. In this regard, FIG. 5 illustrates a network environment 600 that uses a plurality of nodes to transfer data to and from a plurality of computing devices. More specifically, the network environment 600 comprises a plurality of workstations 100a-100f, herein labeled, "A," "B," "C," "D," "E," and "F" in communication with each other via communication links 175 and a network 200. Each of the workstations 100a-100f may be configured identical to the workstation 100 illustrated in FIG. 1. As illustrated in FIG. 5, the network 200 comprises a plurality of nodes 210a-210e in communication with each other via a plurality of network communication links 215. It will be appreciated that the network communication links 215 may comprise a plurality of singular or grouped Ethernet, T1, T3, E1, E3, synchronous optical network (SONET) or other data network communication links. As illustrated, the network 200 may comprise a plurality of nodes 210a-210e ~~210f~~.

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 11, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

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As also illustrated in FIG. 5, the network 200 may be configured in a ring configuration such that either of two different physical pathways formed by the various network communication links 215 may be traversed by data transfers between any of the various workstations 100. For example, data originating from workstation 100a, herein labeled "A," may be communicated along a first communication link 175 to a first node 210a. As shown, node 210a may be in communication with two other nodes 210b and 210e. As a result of the network structure illustrated in FIG. 5, each of the workstations 100b, 100c, 100d, 100e and ~~100e~~ 100f may receive data originating from

workstation 100a via the network 200 and the various communication links 175 that interconnect each of the workstations 100 to a network node 210.

Please replace the paragraph starting on p. 13, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Having briefly described a network environment 600 (FIG. 5), which may support remote application of the firmware patch 500, reference is now directed to FIG. 6, which illustrates a method for delivering and installing firmware upgrades that may be practiced via a workstation coupled to the network of FIG. 5. As illustrated in FIG. 6, a method for performing firmware upgrades 700 may begin with step 705, herein labeled, "Start." Next, as indicated in step 710, the method for performing firmware upgrades 700 may deliver a firmware install patch to a boot disk on each workstation 100 (FIG. 1) that is designated to receive the firmware upgrade. Once the firmware install patch has been stored on the boot disk within a workstation 100 (FIG. 1), the install application 554 (FIG. 4B 4) may be initiated as shown in step 715. The method for performing firmware upgrades 700 may continue by performing a verification of the firmware version presently operative on the respective workstation 100, as indicated in the query of step 720. If the determination in step 720 is negative, the method for performing firmware upgrades 700 may be configured to notify an operator that the presently installed firmware is incompatible with the intended firmware upgrade as shown in step 725. Having notified the operator, the method may proceed to terminate, as indicated by the flowchart of FIG. 6.